

Integrating Off-Campus Study: Colby College's Faculty Mentoring (Pilot) Program

Globalizing the Liberal Arts - Capturing the Global Experience
Soka University, CA, 2018

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Overview

Description of Off-Campus Study and its new Faculty Mentor Program at Colby

- **Identification of challenges and suggestions for ways in which an institutional commitment to integrating students' study abroad experiences may be applicable elsewhere.**

By the numbers: Off-Campus Study at Colby

2000+ students, 58 majors, 35 minors

40-50% study abroad semester or full-year (49% this yr)

70% learn abroad (incl. research and internships)

200+ OCS programs in 60+ countries

Portable aid for OCS experiences

The Task

Global Task Force, May 2016

How to promote integration of study abroad into fabric of institution to promote faculty exposure to students' study-abroad experience and at same time enhance departmental oversight of students' off-campus experiences, requiring them to articulate academic and personal goals?



September 2017

Global Engagement Faculty Advisory Committee and OCS Faculty Advisory Committee propose OCS Faculty Mentor Program

Piloting

(a.k.a. Building a Plane in Mid-Flight)

Four-month process of collaborating with different campus partners

- **OCS and Dean of Global Engagement together with Provost, Sophomore/Junior Advising Deans, Writing Program, Academic ITS, and Counseling Services**

The Program at a Glance

OCS Faculty Mentor Program – February 2018-19

The OCS Faculty Mentor Program is designed to help students fully integrate their education and learning experiences abroad into their Colby course of study, specifically via independent research and explicit cultural engagement. The main objective is to have faculty engage with students through providing advice and guidance prior to, during, and after students' time off campus.

The program is structured as follows:

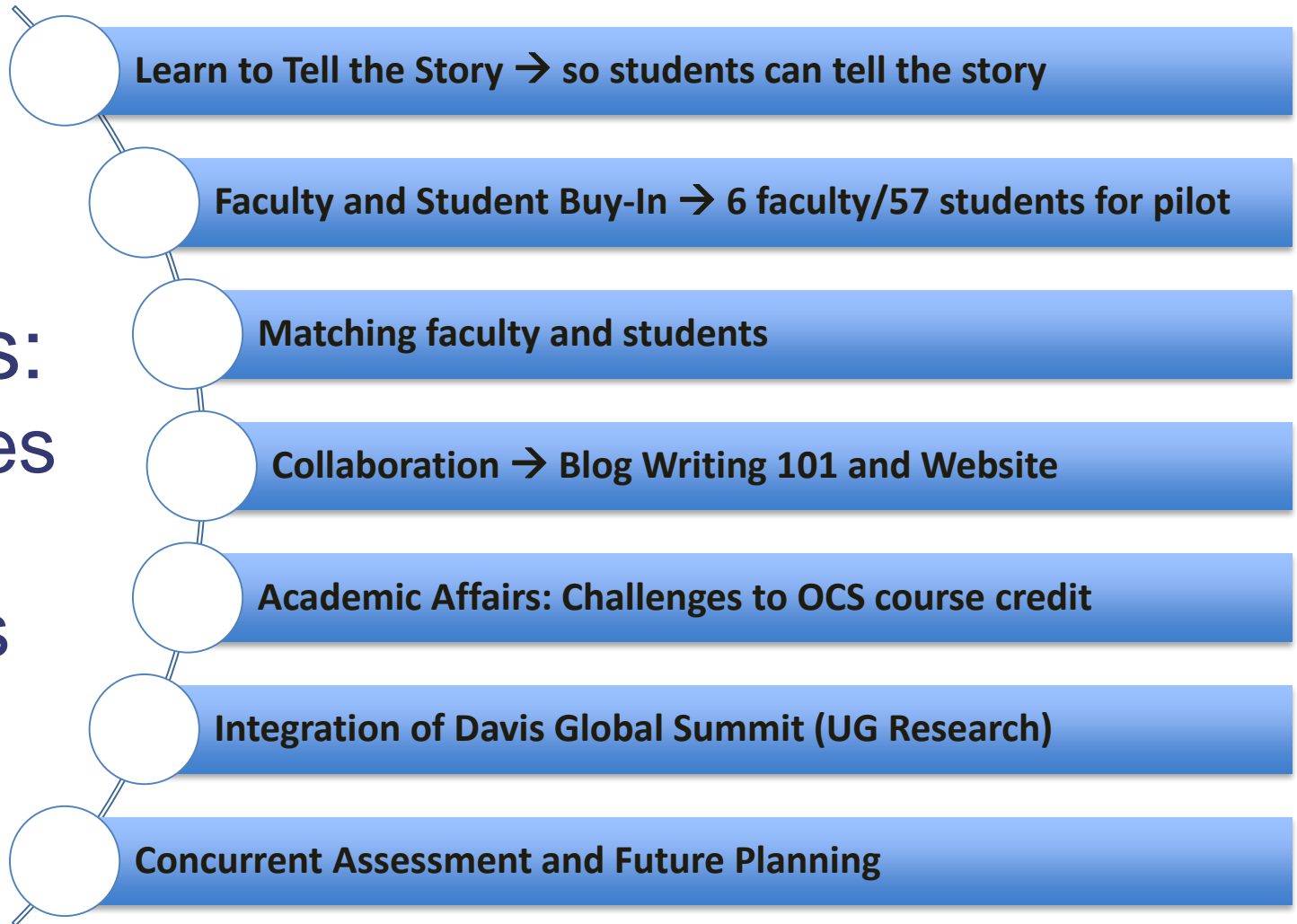
1. Each OCS Faculty Mentor is assigned 10 students.
2. Workshop conducted before March 1 by OCS and Dean of Global Engagement together with Sophomore/Junior Advising Deans, Writing Program, ITS, and Counseling. Focus: supplementing OCS pre-departure advising information with focus on academic integration, suggestions on advising independent research/cultural engagement opportunities.
3. Pre-departure workshops for cohorts held by each Faculty Mentor during the spring or fall semester. Focus: development of semester project and blog, also items from #2 above.
4. Faculty Mentors' individual consultations with students during the semester while they prepare for their education abroad experience. Focus: students provide 1-2 page proposal for education abroad project 4 weeks prior to end of semester along with plan for reflective journal/blog/research journal.
5. Attendance with cohort at mandatory OCS pre-departure workshop during the spring semester.

6. Faculty Mentors check on students' progress during the fall semester abroad, i.e. follow blogs, provide comments, feedback (see *OCS Blog documents for students and faculty*)
7. Faculty Mentors organize a returning-student event at the beginning of the following spring semester to create a re-entry opportunity for students to share personal impressions and challenges but also their work done while abroad (low stakes).
8. Faculty Mentors solicit cover letters (1 page) describing work done abroad. Letters will be considered by DavisConnects for inclusion in Davis Summit on Global Engagement. Students should be encouraged to create an OCS e-portfolio (pre-, during, and post-documents).
9. In a final follow-up, Faculty Mentors consult with students, either in a group meeting or individually, to discuss next steps. This can be about future courses, fellowship and research opportunities, capstone ideas, etc.
10. Faculty Mentors assign CR/NC to students (OCS prefix) upon project completion and submit grade to Dean of Global Engagement/Registrar.

OCS Faculty Mentors receive a stipend (\$2500.00) for their mentoring, and they can be considered for funding to conduct off-campus site visits.

- DATES**
- February 2018 – Cohort/Faculty Assignments**
 - By March 1, 2018 – OCS Faculty Mentor Orientation**
 - Before April 15, 2018 – Schedule cohort and individual student pre-departure meetings**
 - April 15, 2018 – Students' proposals DUE**
 - Fall 2018 (depending on program dates) – Follow student blogs**
 - February 2019 – Schedule cohort and individual student re-entry meetings**
 - February 28, 2019 – Students' cover letters DUE**
 - Spring semester – Project grades (CR/NC) DUE**

Logistics: Challenges and Success



Off Mayflower Hill

The Student Off Campus Blogging Community at Colby College

[FEATURED](#) [OCS FACULTY MENTOR PROGRAM](#) [HOW TO POST](#) [HOW TO REVIEW A POST](#) [LOGIN](#)

THE OCS FACULTY MENTOR PROGRAM



Welcome to Off Mayflower Hill! This site is Colby's clearinghouse of student reflections on off campus study experiences as part of Colby's first iteration of the OCS Faculty Mentor Program. Designed to help students fully integrate their education and learning experiences abroad into their Colby course of study, specifically via independent research and explicit cultural engagement, the main objective of the Faculty Mentor Program is to have faculty engage with students through providing advice and guidance prior to, during, and after students' time off campus.